

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph (the Abstract) beginning at page 35, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A method to electrolytically polymerize aromatic hydrocarbons and oxidize cyclopentane structures within the hydrocarbons into cyclopentanone structures is disclosed including a method to electrolyse fluorine in the presence of an ester to produce poly(9-fluorenone). A method to electrolytically oxidize polymers having cyclopentane structures to polymers having [cyclopentanone] cyclopentanone structures is also disclosed including a method to electrolyze poly(fluorene) to produce poly(9-fluorenone). These methods may include performing two separate and independent electrolysis steps to prepare higher yield cyclopentanone structures. In addition, a method to chemically oxidize polymers containing cyclopentane structures into polymers containing cyclopentanone structures is disclosed, including a method to oxidize poly(fluorene), with a chemically prepared oxidizing agent, to produce poly(9-fluorenone).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/939,141, filed Aug. 24, 2001 pending and entitled METHOD FOR PREPARING POLYMERS CONTAINING CYCLOPENTANONE STRUCTURES.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

Depending on the process used, the poly(fluorene) may include a number of impurities. Use of such "non-pure" polymers of fluorene is typical and expected and within the scope the invention. It should be noted that this may result in correspondingly "non-pure" end products of poly(9-fluorenone) – *i.e.* the percent (W/W) of 9-Fluorenone units will be decreased relative to other polymer units. Poly(fluorene) having at least one fluorene unit can be used and/or poly(fluorene) having at least 1% W/W fluorene units can be used, but preferably a polymer having at least 10% W/W fluorene units, more preferably a polymer having at least 50% W/W

fouorene units, and most preferably at least 80% W/W fluorene units can be used as the starting material in the methods of the present invention. The poly(9-fluorenone) produced by this method has at least one fluorenone unit and/or has at least 1% W/W 9-fluorenone units and preferably has at least 10% W/W 9-fluorenone units and more preferably at least 50% W/W 9-fluorenone units and most preferably at least 80% 9-fluorenone units.